1.(amended) A method of encapsulating a sensitive material comprising:

(a) plating the sensitive material onto a solid carrier, in an atmosphere inert to the sensitive material, to form a plated material; and

(b) encapsulating the plated material, wherein encapsulating comprises spraying a melted encapsulant onto the plated material.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the atmosphere inert to the sensitive material is nitrogen, carbon dioxide, or helium.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the solid carrier is chilled prior to plating with the sensitive material.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the solid carrier is chilled by liquid nitrogen.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the solid carrier is porous or semi porous.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the solid carrier is maltodextrin, silicon dioxide, starches and starch derivatives, gums, or hydrocolloids.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the encapsulation occurs in an atmosphere inert to the sensitive material.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the atmosphere inert to the sensitive material is oxygen-free.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the atmosphere inert to the sensitive material is nitrogen, carbon dioxide, or helium.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensitive material has a boiling point of between about 40° F. and 250° F.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the atmosphere inert to the sensitive material is oxygen-free.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensitive material is sprayed onto the solid carrier.

13. The method of claim 1 further comprising encapsulating the plated material with a melted encapsulant.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the percentage of encapsulant in the resulting encapsulated particles is between about 10 to about 90%.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the percentage of encapsulant in the resulting encapsulated particles is between about 20 to about 80%.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensitive material is a volatile material.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensitive material is an oxygen sensitive material.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensitive material is a biologically active substance.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the biologically active substance is selected from the group consisting of [Lactobacilli] *Lactobacilli*, [Bifidobacterium] *Bifidobacterium*, [Enterococci] *Enterococci*, phytase, amylases, lipases, invertases, transglutaminases, proteases, lipoxygenases and pentosanases.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensitive material is at least one selected from the group consisting of alcohols, acetones, ketones, aldehydes, organic acids, and antioxidants.

21. (amended) A method of encapsulating a sensitive material comprising:

(a) introducing the sensitive material into an encapsulation vessel, wherein the atmosphere in the encapsulation vessel is inert to the sensitive material; and

(b) encapsulating the sensitive material, wherein encapsulating comprises spraying a melted encapsulant onto the sensitive material.

22 ~~23~~. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 21 wherein the sensitive material is lyophilized before being introduced into the encapsulation vessel.

23 ~~24~~. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein the atmosphere inert to the sensitive material is nitrogen, carbon dioxide, or helium.

24 ~~25~~. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein the atmosphere inert to the sensitive material is oxygen-free.

25 ~~26~~. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein the percentage of encapsulant in the resulting encapsulated sensitive material is between about 10 to about 90%.

26 ~~27~~. (previously presented) The method of Claim ~~26~~ 25 wherein the percentage of encapsulant in the resulting encapsulated sensitive material is between about 20 to about 80%.

27 ~~28~~. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein the sensitive material is a volatile material.

28 ~~29~~. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein the sensitive material has a boiling point of between about 40° F and 250° F.

29 30. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein the sensitive material is an oxygen sensitive material.

30 31. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein the sensitive material is a biologically active substance.

31 30 32. (previously amended) The method of Claim 31 wherein the biologically active substance is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacilli, Bifidobacterium, Enterococci,* phytase, amylases, lipases, invertases, transglutaminases, proteases, lipoxygenases and pentosanases.

32 31 33. (previously presented) The method of Claim 32 wherein the biologically active substance is *Lactobacillus* acidophilus.

33 34. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein the sensitive material is at least one selected from the group consisting of alcohols, acetones, ketones, aldehydes, organic acids, and antioxidants.